

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. *Tringa s. solitaria*. Always common during migration on the banks of the river. Abundant on the marshy shores of the lake especially in the spring.

UPLAND PLOVER. *Bartramia longicauda*. Not observed on the former river or on the present lake shore but it was occasionally found on the nearby uplands.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia*. This bird was always very common along the banks of the river throughout the breeding season. It is very common about the lake especially in the inlets and marshes.

AMERICAN BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. *Squatarola s. cynosurae*. Not observed on the former river but noted on the lake May 24, 1925.

GOLDEN PLOVER. *Pluvialis d. dominica*. Rather rare in the wet areas of the former bottom lands. Observed May 10, 1925, on the Big Creek Inlet and in great abundance on the upper lake on May 1, 1926.

KILLDEER. *Oxyechus vociferus*. Not limited to any extent in the immediate vicinity of the lake. This bird has always been common throughout the surrounding uplands of both lake and river.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER. *Aegialitis semipalmata*. Not observed on the former river but quite common on the shores of the lake in May, 1925 and 1926.

URBANA, ILLINOIS.

A BRIEF STUDY OF CANADIAN LIFE ZONE BIRDS IN HIGHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

BY JOHN B. LEWIS

For a number of years my son, M. G. Lewis, of Lexington, Virginia, and myself had planned to go to Highland County in the nesting season, for the purpose of studying the birds of the Canadian Fauna, which reaches a long finger down the back-bone of the mountains; but not until last June were we able to realize our dream, and then for only two days, which is too short a time to do anything like justice to the work.

We motored from Lexington to Staunton, and then turning northwest, drove into Highland County, over a fairly good road and through scenery of ever-increasing beauty and grandeur. We crossed ridge after ridge, each a few hundred feet higher than the last. As the altitude increased the hemlock, white pine, butternut, and white birch began to appear in the landscape; and numerous wild flowers new to us, including the rhododendron and flame-colored azalea, were seen on the mountain-sides.

At sunset we camped near the highest point reached by the road in crossing the gap in the mountains, before beginning the descent into the valley of Jackson River, in which is located the village of Monterey. This was not far from the head of Crab Run, and for convenience we will call it Crab Camp. According to the Geological Survey map the altitude of our camp was about 3,400 feet, while the top of the ridge, which we climbed the next morning, was around 300 feet higher.

We were out at 4:00 A. M. the next morning, June 9, and climbed the mountain on the south of the gap. The mountains have a strong limestone soil, and where not too rocky, are cleared and grazed. After spending four hours on this mountain, we drove down the three or four miles of descent into Monterey, purchased some food, and then went down Jackson River and up Back Creek, looking for birds and enjoying the scenery.

We then began the ascent of the highest mountain in that section of the State, which is known as Sounding Knob, and which rises to a height of 4,400 feet. It is cleared and blue grass covers about half of its surface, including the entire top. We drove the Ford as far up as the rough trail would permit and made camp. That afternoon we went on to the top on foot, a distance of about three miles horizontally, and close to 1,000 feet vertically.

On the morning of the 10th. we were out again at daylight, and worked until 10:00 A. M., when we had to start on the return trip. I give below a list of the birds observed by us, which are found only at high altitudes in this latitude. Due to the short time we were at work, we doubtless failed to find many that are present.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. *Sphyrapicus varius*. A pair was found feeding young in a nest in the dead top of a Chestnut tree well up on Sounding Knob. The nest tree was in the edge of woods on the upper border of a pasture. The nest hole was thirty-five feet up.

NORTHERN RAVEN. *Corvus corax principalis*. Three were seen flying over Sounding Knob, being distinguished from the Crow by their much larger size.

CAROLINA JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis carolinensis*. One of the most abundant nesting species at 3,000 feet and above, frequenting bushy pastures and borders of woods. Two pairs feeding young were found on top of Sounding Knob.

CEDAR WAXWING. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. I give the following observations for what they are worth, as they may not mean that the cedarbird was nesting in that locality. Just before dark on the eve-

ning of the 8th, four cedarbirds circled about over Crab Camp for a few minutes and then flew to the wooded mountain side above us. At about 8:00 o'clock the next morning four birds, probably the same ones, came from the same locality and went through with the same performance, returning as before to the woods higher up. We had not time to make anything like a careful search for nests.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. *Vermivora chrysoptera*. Found in scattered trees in pasture above Crab Camp. It is slow in its movements and keeps much to the tree tops. Constantly repeats its *Z-e-e-e De-de-de* song. Its actions indicated that it was breeding, though we found no nest.

CAIRNS'S WARBLER. *Dendroica cerulescens cairnsi*. Found in heavy timber, high up the side of Sounding Knob at an elevation of around 4,000 feet. It is very active and keeps to the tree tops. It is also very elusive, often flying several hundred yards when approached. The song is quite different from that of the typical Black-throated Blue Warbler. My description of it written in the field is: *Chick-chick-chick-e-e-e-e-e-e*, the concluding thrill being a tone and a half higher than the three first notes.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER. *Dendroica magnolia*. On the morning of the 10th, shortly before we had to leave, a warbler new to us began singing from the tall oaks around our camp half way up Sounding Knob. We began looking for it with our glasses, and I took down its song in musical notation. M. G. got one good look at it and pronounced it a Magnolia Warbler. Before I got my glass on it, it left, and we heard it no more. The song which I recorded agrees very closely with one of the songs of the Magnolia described by Chapman in the "Warblers of North America."

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. *Dendroica pensylvanica*. Fairly common both at Crab Camp and Sounding Knob. The first one we saw was in a brier thicket on the roadside at an elevation of about 3,000 feet. Those found later were mostly in the low growth in woods. One pair was observed feeding young out of the nest.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. *Dendroica virens*. Heard singing in the heavy timber both at Crab Camp and on Sounding Knob.

HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylocichla guttata*. One of the northern thrushes was heard singing in a ravine above Crab Camp, which was probably of this species, though we did not get to see it.

While it is not a northern species, it may be of interest to state that a Bewick's Wren was seen and heard at Crab Camp.

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